

**Historical Society  
Of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.**

**YEARBOOK**

**VOL. I—1951**

**EDITORS:**

**COL. HENRY W. T. EGLIN and LOUISE L. ALEXANDER**

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# Table of Contents

	Page
I. Officers, 1950-1951_____	1
II. Manuscripts Acquired, 1950-51_____	2
III. Activities of the Historical Society_____	3-5
IV. Selected Bibliography on Fairfax County, Virginia_____	6-7
V. Historical Sketches by Capt. S. Roszel Donohoe_____	8-22
VI. John S. Mosby_____	23-29
VII. Antonia Ford by Ben Miller_____	30-37
VIII. Historical Potomac Canals_____	38-41
IX. Battle of Fairfax Courthouse by John W. McDonald, Col., U. S. Cav., Rtd._____	42-49
X. Account of the Death of Captain Marr by Mrs. Thos. Moore _____	50-51
XI. Letter Concerning Battle of Fairfax by Mrs. Robert E. Lee _____	52-56
XII. Dumfries _____	57-58
XIII. Membership List_____	59-61
XIV. Minutes of The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc. _____	62-75

## Introduction

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., presents with pleasure its first year-book. The Society was formed on February 18, 1950, with the purpose of collecting and preserving data, letters and objects of interest pertaining to the history of Fairfax County and northern Virginia. Affiliation with the Historical Society of Virginia has been made and the Fairfax Society is grateful for the encouragement given by the larger organization.

The Fairfax Society also wishes to thank the many citizens of Fairfax County who have contributed their valuable papers and books as well as their services to make the formation and continuation of an Historical Society possible.

**In Memoriam**  
**CRAIG HUNTER**

**February 26, 1892—June 26, 1951**

**In Memoriam**  
**MRS. SMITH BOWMAN**

**Died 1951**

**Charter Members**  
**of the**  
**Historical Society**  
**Of Fairfax County**

**Officers  
of the  
Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia  
1950-1952**

**Founding Officers—Feb., 1950, Through June, 1950**

J. W. RIXEY SMITH, President  
M. THATCHER PARIS, Secretary  
MRS. EDMUND PARRY, Treasurer

**Officers—July, 1950, Through June, 1951**

COL. H. W. T. EGLIN, President  
CHARLES PICKETT, First Vice-President  
M. THATCHER PARIS, Second Vice-President  
JAMES KEITH, Secretary  
MRS. EDMUND PARRY, Treasurer

**Officers—July, 1951, Through June, 1952**

COL. H. W. T. EGLIN, President  
JUDGE CHARLES HAMEL, First Vice-President  
CAPT. WALTER KARIG, Second Vice-President  
JAMES KEITH, Secretary  
MRS. ROBERT COX, Treasurer

**Directors**

M. THATCHER PARIS (October, 1950—October 25, 1951)  
MRS. JOHN ALEXANDER (July, 1951—June, 1952)

**Board of Directors**

COL. H. W. T. EGLIN	MRS. F. S. McCANDLISH
CHARLES PICKETT	MRS. EDMUND PARRY
JUDGE PAUL BROWN	JOHN C. MACKALL
THOMAS P. CHAPMAN	J. W. RIXEY SMITH
MRS. CHARLES POZER	ROBERT GRAHAM
FREDERICK D. RICHARDSON	JOHN S. BARBOUR
JOHN RUST	JAMES KEITH
M. THATCHER PARIS—February, 1950, October 25, 1951	



# Manuscripts

## Acquired During 1950-51

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., has been fortunate in acquiring the following personal papers:

Brookfield, John S.  
Confederate States of America.  
Fairfax County Historical Society, 1900-1917.  
Fairfax County, Virginia.  
Grigsby, James P. H.  
Keith Family Papers.  
Law, Thomas.  
Lee, Robert Edward, and family.  
McCandlish, Moore, Donohoe Papers.  
Mackall, Douglas S.  
Mason, John.  
Mosby, John S.  
Pickett Family Papers.  
Somerville, James W.  
Stuntz, S. C.  
Thomas, Henry Wirt

Practically all of the papers are open to students interested in serious research. Though none of the papers and books in the library of the Society can be removed from the offices, arrangements can be made to use them at any time.

It is the policy of the Society to restrict the use of certain papers for a limited time. This is done to protect people, now living, from any embarrassment. The Society welcomes all additions to these collections. The aim of the Society is to preserve all materials, printed and manuscript, relating to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

# Activities of the Historical Society Of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.

Among the activities sponsored by the Society have been tours of historical sites in the county for the teachers of the Fairfax High School. These tours have included such places as Woodlawn, Gunston Hall, the Courthouse and other historic places.

The Director has spoken on Fairfax County to many classes in the schools of the county and helped to supply material for their study of county history.

The Director has also spoken to garden clubs, the Colonial Dames, the Forestville Grange and other organizations.

Among the more interesting projects sponsored by the Society was an Heirloom Show and tour of houses in Fairfax.

## Heirloom Show

The Heirloom Show given under the auspices of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., was the first such show to be given in northern Virginia. The exhibits consisted of silver, glass, china, quilts, coverlets, pottery, manuscripts, portraits, miniatures and many miscellaneous heirlooms of the people of this county and northern Virginia.

## Truro Rectory

The Rectory of Truro Episcopal Church, built in the early Nineteenth Century, was one of the first houses to be built in the present Town of Fairfax; is noted for the fine Georgian woodwork, original mantels and floors.

It was in this house that Captain John S. Mosby captured the Yankee Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton on the night of March 8, 1863. Captain Mosby in his report to Major General



J. E. B. Stuart writes, "The fruits of this expedition are 1 brigadier general, 2 captains, and 30 men-prisoners. We also brought off 58 horses . . . and a considerable number of arms." The house is now occupied by Mr. Raymond Davis, rector of the church.

## Fairfax Courthouse

The Courthouse, a red brick rectangle with gabled roof, arcaded loggia and a cupola, was built in 1800 on two acres of land acquired from Richard Ratcliffe in 1799. The village grew up around the Courthouse and on January 14, 1805, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act establishing the Town of Providence. February 16, 1892, the village became incorporated as the Town of Fairfax, by act of the General Assembly.

The Courthouse is noted for the fine collection of portraits of early Fairfax men. The wills of General and Mrs. Washington and George Mason, Esq., will be on exhibit.

## Home of Mrs. Walter T. Oliver

The first part of this interesting old house was built around 1800 with the main section being added in 1832. The house is noteworthy for its very fine stairway and mantels. It was in this house that former Governor Smith and Colonel Ewell were staying on June 1, 1861, when the Yankees killed Captain John Marr. Captain Marr was the first Confederate soldier killed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The house has been occupied by the Oliver family since 1897.

## Home of Mrs. Charles Pozer

The oldest house in the present Town of Fairfax, it was built before 1742. Before the Town of Providence was incorporated the settlement was known as Erp's Corners and this house was used as an ordinary. This ordinary is the only house in the

present village where it has been proven that George Washington stayed while on early surveying trips. While the house was being restored, Revolutionary War shoe buckles were found in the cellar.

## Swallow Barn

A restored Nineteenth Century farmhouse now the home of Mrs. Thatcher Paris.

It is the desire of the Society to continue the activities and become a vital part of the county life. A brief resume of the quarterly meetings of the Society will be found in the minutes.

The Directors and Officers of the Society wish to thank all of those members of the Society who have worked so hard to make the existence of such an organization possible. Our special thanks go to Mrs. F. S. McCandlish, Mrs. Charles Pozer, Mrs. Henry W. T. Eglin, Mrs. Fairfax Landstreet, Mrs. Charles Pickett, Mrs. Walter T. Oliver, Mrs. Walter Karig, Mrs. John W. Brookfield, Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Smith, and Louise L. Alexander, director, and Col. H. W. T. Eglin.

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# Historical Sketches

By

CAPT. S. ROSZEL DONOHOE

Excerpts from Historical Sketches published in the Fairfax Herald by S. Roszel Donohoe, from publications of March 15 through August 23, 1912.

Mr. Donohoe was born in 1851, he was captain of the Fairfax Company during the Spanish-American War. He founded the Fairfax Herald of which he was editor in 1881. He was also one of the founders of the first Fairfax Historical Society which was in existence from 1900 to 1917. Mr. Donohoe served as Auditor of Public Accounts and was Federal Prohibition officer in Fairfax. He died in 1921.

## Indian Massacres

After the great masacre of 1620, which almost resulted in the extermination of the colony, stringent measures were resorted to in order to intimidate the Indians and keep them in a state of absolute subjection and helplessness.

As the white settlements were extended to this section of the Colony, the hostile attitude of the Indians rendered defensive measures necessary as will be seen by the following:

"At a Grand Assembly, Begunn at James Citty the 25th of April Anno Domini 1679, Annoq. Regni Rs. Caroli XXXI.

"Whereas the grand assembly have taken in sad and serious consideration the sundry murthers, rapines and many depredations lately committed and done by Indians on the inhabitants of the country, and the greate danger the frontier counties are exposed to by the frequent incursions of the Indians, for prevention whereof, and for the future security of the country, Bee it enacted by the governour, councill and burgesses of this grand assembly, and the authority thereof, and it is hereby enacted, that fower houses for stores or garrisons be erected and built at



the heads of the fflower greate rivers, vizt. Att the head of Potowmack river, at Nieapico, near Occoquan, one store house to be strongly built and well covered to be sixty foot long, and twenty two foote broad, and one small house of tenn foote square to be strongly built for ammunition, both of which to be built and paid for at the publique charge. And that major Isaack Allerton, coll. St. Leger Codd, and coll. George Mason take upon them to provide the severall hereafter mentioned for said worke and houses, for which they shall be reimbursed." . . .

Oliver Cromwell never had any warm adherents in the Colony of Virginia which manifested its loyalty to the restored monarchy as follows:

"Whereas, our late surrender and submission to that execrable power that so bloodylye massacred the late King Charles the first of ever blesed and glorious memory hath made us by acknowledging them guilty of their crimes to shew our serious and hearty repentence and detestation of that barbarous act. Bee itt enacted, that the 30th of January, the day the said king was beheaded, be annually solemnized with fasting and prayers that our sorrows may expiate our crime and our tears wash away our guilt."

## First Settlements in Fairfax

### Diary of "The Rangers"

While the records of Fairfax County since its formation in 1742 have been pretty well preserved, very little is known of its history prior to that date. Prince William County (from which Fairfax was taken) was formed from Stafford and King George in 1730, and hence the early history of what is now Fairfax County is embodied in the history of Stafford County prior to that date.

The first serious attempts to settle the upper part of Stafford (now Fairfax) County must have been made somewhere about the year 1690. In June, 1692, Capt. David Straughan (sometimes spelled "Strahane") and "eight Rangers" made application for pay for services rendered in patrolling the territory now known

"A Journal of our Ranging, Given me, David Strahane, Lieut. of the Rangers of Pottomack." His operations covered the vicinity of Accotink and Pohick, and extended as far up as Sugarland run. Such companies of mounted men, long employed by the Colony as scouts to watch the savages, were regularly enlisted and generally commanded by persons considered particularly adapted for so active and dangerous a service. Their pay was in tobacco. Lieut. Strahane's expedition was doubtless in consequence of the movements of the Piscataway Indians, with whose Emperor they had an interview. The "Sugarland" here referred to, history states, derived its name from a growth of the sugar maple tree although not a remnant of it is now found here.

On June 18, 1700, George Mason (progenitor of George Mason of "Gunston Hall") addressed a letter to the Governor of the Colony, in which he gives the following account of murders committed by the Indians in the section now known as Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County:

May It please yor Excellcy:

I got my Letters ready to send yor excellcy on Munday Early, but on Sunday, Late in ye night, came a poaft to give an acct of a Murder Don in thefe parts, soe hindered my then desire.

Sir: On Sunday ye 16th about 3 of ye clock in ye afternoon came about 20 or 30 Indians to Thomas Barton, about 20 miles above my house. The man & his wife & brother being Abroad, & left his 3 Children an an Orphant Boy at home & had gott a man & his wife & 3 Children from a Plantation of mine, about 2 miles from his to stay to look after his house untell they came home. The Indians fell on them & Killed Barton's 3 Children, ye man & his wife & his 3 Children. The Orphant Boy Run Away, he being out at Play blessed be God, Gott to a nabor's

house & is safe. They killed them with arrows & Wooden  
Tomamahawkes: . . .

Yore Excells

Moft Humble Sevt.

G. Mason

Following this letter is the report of an interview with the Emperor of the Piscataways, by "Phill Haskins and Wm. Dent who had been sent to negotiate with the Emperor." They say:

"He speaks English as well as in the Indian tongue, and exhibits considerable dignity and intelligence; insists his people did not commit the late murder and depredations, but suspects the Towit-towees; consents to remove his family and property from his 'fort' down to Maryland, opposite lower Stafford county, as earnest of his good intentions."

The murders committed by the Indians near Pohick in what is now Mount Vernon District, as detailed in a previous article, spread consternation among the early settlers, many of whom abandoned their homes and plantations and sought security in localities more remote from Indian depredations. Indeed, for a time, it seemed as if this locality would have been surrendered to the savages, but for the determination and intercession of certain prominent citizens.

It was enacted that "there shall be levyed & paid to every Lieutenant or Commander of the Rangers for himself his horse with accoutrements, Arms & Ammunition, for his service for one year five thousands pounds of tobacco with Cask & in proportion to that for a lesser time than a year, and to every man listed under such Lieutenant of Commander for himself, his horse, with accoutrements, arms and ammunition for his service for one year three thousand pounds of tobacco . . . The work of the rangers proved effective, and the Indians were gradually driven across the Blue Ridge to the Alleghanies.

## Incorporated Towns in Fairfax County

Colchester was undoubtedly the first incorporated town within the present limits of Fairfax County. The House of Burgesses, in 1748, passed an act "for erecting a town at Hunting Creek warehouse in the County of Fairfax." But the town was never really established at the point indicated in the act. In 1753 the House of Burgesses passed "An Act for Erecting a Town on Occoquan River in the County of Fairfax."

Great Falls ranks second in point of seniority among the incorporated towns of Fairfax County. The place was known, originally, as The Great Falls of the Potowmack. In 1772 it was incorporated and given the name of Phillee, the Act stating that "whereas the honourable Philip Ludwell Lee esquire, hath laid off one hundred acres of land, adjoining the warehouses at the falls of Potomack, in the County of Fairfax, into lots and streets for a town, which is called by the name of Phillee, Be it enacted, &c. that the purchasers of the said lots, so soon as they shall have built upon and saved the same, according to the conditions of their deeds of conveyance, shall then be entitled to have and enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities which the freeholders and inhabitants of other towns, erected by act of assembly, in this colony do enjoy."

The name of Phillee adhered to the place for eighteen years, or until 1790, when another act of incorporation was passed, and the place was given the name of Matildaville.

The change of name from Phillee to Matildaville did not promote the growth of the place to any appreciable extent, and on March 6, 1839, there was passed "An Act to Establish the Town of South Lowell at the Great Falls of the Potomac River in the County of Fairfax."

The trustees were Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, Henry Fairfax, Thomas R. Love, William W. Ball, and William A. Beadley, and they were authorized to enact by-laws and ordinances to regulate the building of houses, to abate nuisances, repair streets and alleys, to punish by reasonable fines the practice of firing guns and running horses in said town, to license and regulate shows and other public exhibitions, appoint officers, etc.

Centreville (then in the County of Loudoun) was incorporated November 12, 1792. "Seventy acres of land, lying near Newgate, the property of John Stewart Alexander, Presley Carr Lane, George Ralls, Mary Lane and Francis Adams."

The present Town of Fairfax (the county-seat) was formerly known as Providence. The act of incorporation was passed January 14th, 1805. For some years prior to the Civil War the town was known as Fairfax Court House, and in recent years (1912) was incorporated under the name of the "Town of Fairfax."

Before passing from the subject of incorporated towns we will state that by Act passed in September, 1758, sixty acres belonging to Nicholas Minor, "adjudging to the court house" of Loudoun County, were divided into lots with "proper streets for a town," and called Leesburg.

It was quite awhile before the people of the new Town of Leesburg acquired "city ways" as we find that the General Assembly passed the following law in 1772:

"Whereas, It is reported to this present General Assembly that a great number of hogs are raised and suffered to go at large in the town of Leesburg in the County of Loudoun, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants thereof."

"Be it enacted, that from and after the last day of May next, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, inhabitants of the Town of Leesburg, owners of any swine, to the suffer the same to go at large within the limits thereof.

## To Encourage Wine Making

In November, 1762, a number of gentlemen subscribed certain amounts in order that "the sum of five hundred pounds be given as a premium to the person who shall, in any one year, within eight years from this date, make the best wine, in quantity not less than ten hogsheads." It was agreed that "one hundred pounds be given to the second candidate." Among the subscribers to this fund were the Governor and the leading men of the Colony including George Washington, who subscribed £2.



## The Revolutionary Period

In October, 1776, the Governor as authorized to form out of the two militia companies of Fairfax, one artillery company, "to consist of fifty matrosses, with proper offices, to be duly exercised at the batteries in the said town [Alexandria] twice in every week, and to mount proper guards at the same."

A little later thirty-three men were ordered to be "drafted (as per quota) from the County of Fairfax to complete certain regiments in the Continental service; 68 from Loudoun, and 32 from Prince William—to be single without children." In October, 1780, Fairfax was required to furnish 49 additional men.

When the scene of strife had shifted from the Carolinas to Virginia, and Lord Cornwallis entered the State with his army, flushed with victory, every effort was made to organize a force sufficiently large to repel the invasion. Little headway was made, however, owing to lack of means and, especially lack of cooperation. La Fayette's "flying column" had passed through Fairfax on its journey southward, and was followed, later, by other troops. British vessels had ascended the Potomac and committed many depredations upon the inhabitants. On April 9, 1781, "Henry Lee, Co. Lieut. of Prince William," in a letter to Governor Jefferson, recites a number of instances of the kind, and adds: "If the enemy had succeeded at Alexandria, they intended, one of the prisoners says, to have burnt Genl. Washington's houses, plundered Colo. Mason and myself, and endeavored to have made me a prisoner."

On June 3, 1781, Geo. Mason, at "Gunston Hall," wrote quite a lengthy letter to his son, Geo. Mason, Jr., then in France from which we make the following extracts. They show that the long war was having a depressing effect upon the spirits of many who, at the beginning, were earnest in their advocacy of resistance to the British government. And yet, within a comparatively short period, by the brilliant achievement at Yorktown, the independence of the Colonies was assured—another illustration of the fact that "the darkest hour is just before day."

"Your Brother William writes you by this opportunity. He returned some time ago, from South Carolina where he commanded a

Company of Volunteers (75 young fellows from this Country). He had a rough Campaign of it, and has acquired the Reputation of a vigilant & good officer, and I think is greatly improved by the Expedition—Your Brother Thomas has lately returned from a Tour of Militia Duty upon James River. He commanded a Platoon, in a pretty close action at Williamsburg & behaved with proper coolness & Intrepidity: He is now from home or wou'd have wrote to you. I have written you very fully lately upon domestic subjects; but I am not able to give you any agreeable public news. Our affairs have been for some time growing from bad to worse. The Enemy's Fleet commands our Rivers, & puts it in their power to remove their Troops from place to place, when, and where they please, without opposition; so that we no sooner collect a Force sufficient to counteract them in one part of the Country, but they shift to another, ravaging, plundering and destroying everything before them. Our militia turn out with great spirit, & have in several late actions behaved bravely; but they are badly armed and appointed.

You know, from your own acquaintance in this Part of Virginia that the Bulk of the People here are staunch Whigs, strongly attached to the American Cause and well affected to the French Alliance; yet they grow uneasy & restless, and begin to think that our Allies are spinning out the War, in order to weaken America, as well as Great Britain, and thereby leave us at the End of it, as dependent as possible upon themselves.

If our Allies had a superior Fleet here, I shou'd have no Doubt of a favourable Issue to the War, but without it I fear we are deceiving both them & ourselves in expecting we shall be able to keep our People much longer firm, in so unequal an Opposition to Great Britain.

France surely intends the separation of these States, for ever, from Great Britain—It is highly her Interest to accomplish this; but by drawing out the Thread too fine & long, it may unexpectedly break in her Hands.

God bless you, my dear child! and grant that we may again meet in your native country, as Freemen; otherwise, that we may never

see each other more, is the Prayer of Your Affectionate Father," etc., etc.

On the 13th of September, 1781, Governor Nelson addressed a letter to the "County Lieutenant" of Fairfax, saying: "The march of his Excellency Gen'l Washington with his Troops by Land, makes it necessary that the Roads he is to pass, be put into the best order. This you will immediately have done in your County." And on the 14th he wrote from Williamsburg: "Gen. Washington is just arrived and his army is every moment expected."

Under date of September 17, 1781, Col. Henry Lee wrote Col. Davies as follows from Prince William County:

"Sir,

"In consequence of yr: of the 31st of Aug't I draughted one half of my Militia amounting to 285 privates besides the proper Serg'ts and Commissioned Officers as required to Command them by the Invasion Law, and had them ready last Wednesday, to march, but in consequence of his Excellency Genl: Washington's Lre, a copy of which is herunto annexed I have kept them on severe Duty in repairing the roads wch: were impassable for the Baggage Wagons and Artillery, which has been a laborious & fatiguing Duty. I saw his Excellency as he passed through Dumfries last Wednesday who directed me, in Conjunction with Colo. Wagener, the County Lt: of Fairfax, to view and Examine the Ford of Occoquan at a place called Wolfe run ford, and if it was Possible, to make the hills there. which were by nature inaccessible a way for waggons, to have it done in consequence of these orders, the way was viewed and found might be made a good road with much labour, and half of my Militia, Draughts & all are & have been employed about that work and in a few days I am in hopes will be completely accomplished, w'ch will open a direct way from Georgetown to Dumfries and shorten the distance many miles, besides being a much better road, and well supplied with forage, being a fine fertile Country well improved with Meadows. The Genl: likewise advised me not to send the Militia to head quarters until I heard from him or the Governour, whom he should inform of the disposition he had made of them, but to hold them in readiness to march on the first call, which I shall do until I receive further

orders. besides We were disappointed in getting the 229 stand of Arms from Colo: Peyton in Loudoun on Genl: Weedon's orders. I went in Person to Colo. Peyton's to press the delivery, but he shewed me a Lre. from you forbidding the delivery of Public Arms, but to the order of yr: Board, and said he should put those he had in the hands of his own Militia who were ordered on duty & were without. We have not above 80 guns in the County that are any-wise fit for Service and about as many Squerill Guns. He Excellency has ordered the Fairfax Militia who were well Armed, on the same Fatigue, and the whole Militia except the draught from Stafford who had marched, are on fatigue duty in Clearing roads from Chappowamsick to Falmouth. Pray inform the Gov'r of the reason this Militia has not marched agreeable to his Lre; to me of the 2nd of this month, w'ch most suffieiently plead my Excuse with you & him. I am sorry to hear that the Army wants bread, & will use every influence & Exertion in my Power to Prevail on the People to thresh out their grain. this County can easily supply 60,00 bushels of Wheat. A list of the Cloathing w'ch will this day be forwarded on to Capt: Peyton shall be transmitted to you by the first opportunity; they have been ready (except some few) several months.

"I a min want of Some Blank Commissions, w'ch pray forwarded me with the Articles of War. I am with great regard and Esteem, Yr: most ob't Serv't.

Letter referred to above:

"Mount Vernon Sep 10th 1781.

Dear Sir,

Let me request you in very earnest terms to employ the militia ordered out by the Governor in repairing the roads from the ford of Occoquon through Dumfries to the limits of your County. To do this & do it well is of such essential importance that I cannot forbear urging it in strong terms. The baggage waggons of the French & American Armies, the Cavalry & Beef Cattle will all march by this route & may be expected in the course of a few days—Neglect of or delay in the execution of this business

will not only retard the march of the waggons, but may be productive of essential injury to the. For dispatch and the better performance of this work, it may be proper to divide the Militia into several parties under good officers, strongly impressed with the necessity of the Services. If the ford at Occoquan admits of improvement Let me entreat that you & Colo: Wagener will use the best means of giving it. These Services well performed, may probably exempt your Militia from further service & a march to York.

I expect Count de Rochambeau (Commander of the French Army) and the Chevlr. de Chastellus & their respective suite at this place, tomorrow on their way to join the army below. It would be a relief to them & their horses, and a mark of attention w'ch I am persuaded would be pleasing the Gentlemen of this State would assist them along in their carriages from stage to stage. Permit me therefore to request the favour of you to provide at Dumfries the means of carrying them to Fredericksburg, where I will engage other Gentlemen to take them up, from hence they will be furnished with carriages & horses to York.

With much esteem & regard I am Dr. Sir, yr: most obed't Serv't,

Geo: Washington.

Henry Lee Esqr. County Lieut. of Prince William.

P.S. I expect the Gentlemen before mentioned will dine at Dumfries on Wednesday, if they arrive here as I expect. Be so good as to communicate so much of this Letter as relates to the repairs of the road, to the Lieut: of Stafford County, & in my name & behalf entreat him to attend to the business in his district—I wish particular attention could be paid to the ford at Falmouth.

### When Wolves Were in Fairfax

The young sportsman of the present day, who trudges around for hours with his gun on his shoulder, without finding anything larger



than an "old hare," can hardly realize that our hills and vales and water courses afforded homes at one time not only for the Indians, but also for almost every variety of wild game. The wolf was the most hated as well as the most destructive animal that the early settlers of this locality had to contend with. Rewards were offered from time to time for wolf scalps. In May, 1782, the following Act was passed:

"Whereas, It is represented to this General Assembly that the giving further rewards in certain counties for the destroying of wolves will be attended with very great advantage to the inhabitants thereof.

"Be it enacted, That from and after passage of this act, and during the continuance thereof, any person who shall kill any wolf within the counties . . . Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun . . . shall have an additional reward of one hundred pounds of nett tobacco for every young wolf not exceeding the age of six months, and for every wolf above that age, two hundred pounds of like tobacco . . . and the several county courts are hereby empowered and required to levy the same in their annual county levy to the persons entitled thereto."

## List of Justices

The list of Justices for Fairfax County, in October, 1770, as certified to by "P. Wageners," clerk, was as follows:

John West, George Mason, Dannell McCarty, John Carlyle, Wm. Ramsay, Charles Broadwater, Charles West, Jr., Bryan Fairfax, Sampson Darrell, Henry Gunnell, Robert Adam, Wm. Payne, Wm. Adams, Hector Ross, Alex. Henderson George Washington, and Edward Layne.

It will be observed that these justices were the most prominent men of the county. Indeed, under the old magisterial system, the very best men served on the bench as magistrates, and this is what gave the old county court system its high reputation for fairness and efficiency. They did not indulge in legal technicalities, whereby the ends of justice are so often defeated, but went into the very merits of the case, and rendered their decisions accordingly.

## Gen. Wade Hampton's Ancestors Lived in Fairfax

The Hampton family was one of the most ancient and honorable in England, and was distinguished there more than a thousand years ago. Two brothers emigrated to Virginia in early Colonial days. One died without issue . . .

John Hampton of King William County (who died in 1760) had three sons; viz., Thomas Hampton, who lived in Caroline County; Richard Hampton, who lived in Fauquier County, and John Hampton, who lived in Fairfax County. John Hampton of Fairfax was the ancestor of Gen. Wade Hampton of South Carolina. He was born about 1690 and died early in 1748. He was married about 1710 or 1711 to Margaret Wade of New Kent County, who was born May 1, 1694, and died in May, 1773. Thus Gen. "Wade" Hampton got his name. John owned a two-hundred-acre plantation in Fairfax. In 1747 he was one of the freeholders of this county who voted at an election of Burgesses. In 1742 his son, Anthony, was one of the processioners of Truro Parish. He later removed to South Carolina. In 1755 John Hampton, Jr., was one of the processioners of the parish. A processioner was a parish officer whose duty was to fix the boundaries of the plantations for the purpose of levying tithes.

## Turnpikes and Plank Roads in Fairfax

The Little River Turnpike was chartered in 1795, and at the same time a toll road was authorized to be constructed from Matildaville (Great Falls) to Alexandria. On the 12th of January, 1804, a number of gentlemen were authorized to raise \$10,000 by lottery for the improvement of the road from the fork on Little River, where the turnpike crosses it, to Snicker's and Nobby's Gaps.

The present effort (1912) to construct a turnpike from the Town of Fairfax to Lewinsville is not a recent conception. As far back as January 13, 1834, the Providence and Lewinsville Turnpike Co. was incorporated, "for the purpose of constructing a turnpike road from some point on the Little River Turnpike, at or near the Town

of Providence [now Fairfax] in the County of Fairfax by way of Lewinsville, to its intersection with the Fallsbridge Turnpike at or near the present toll gate on said road, about three miles from the bridge over the Potomac at the Little Falls." . . . The road was to be graded at least twenty feet wide, and "constructed with plank at least eight feet wide," and its grade was nowhere to exceed three degrees. The Board of Public Works was authorized to subscribe, on behalf of the Commonwealth to 80 shares, or \$4,000—two-fifths of capital stock should be taken by the people. The construction was to have commenced within two and completed within five years. It was never built.

### An Insurrectionist in Fairfax

The following letter from G. Millan of Fairfax to the Governor of Virginia, under date of September 9, 1833, will be read with interest.

"Sir, this is to inform you of a suspicious character who is endeavoring to cause the slaves to rebel and make insurrection. He arrived at Fairfax Court House on Thursday night last with two other men in company; had a large box, supposed from the best evidence I can get to weigh 4 to 500 w't, and thought by the citizens at Fairfax Ct. House to contain arms. He was seen in Company with 9 or 10 slaves, and heard by white persons to say, If you will only be true, you can get free. The slaves have been apprehended and brought before me; they state that he gave them money treated the, and told them he had a plenty of arms and fixed on a place about 2 miles from Fairfax Ct. House to meet. He put up at Mr. Allison's Tavern on his arrival but soon left the tavern and was out all night. Mr. Allison heard him say to a slave, If you will only be true you can all get free. Said he had got the Negroes from Prince William County to join him, and many others. He, by some means, got alarmed and immediately fled to Alexandria or the City, stating to the slaves and to a white female, that she did not know him then, but would know him in about two week, when he should return.

"I send you his name and description to act on as you may think fit:

"John Windover, about 5 feet 10 inches high, stout make; about 30 or 45 years old; light florid complexion; down look; light hair very coarse features. A carpenter by trade."

### Relic of a Tragedy

Wm. Tatham of Richmond addressed the following letter to the Governor, May 6, 1818:

"I have the honor to present to the Commonwealth of Virginia the Sword which John Lewis, a grandson of Fielding Lewis, Esq'r of Fredericksburg, and of his lady General Washington's sister, wore on the unfortunate evening of the 24th of August, 1814, when he lost his life, too rashly, perhaps, by charging single handed through the main column of the Enemy in Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, after he had killed General Ross' horse with his pistol near Mr. Gallaten's on Capitol Hill."

## John S. Mosby

The following letter and newspaper article are from the files of The Historical Society of Fairfax, Virginia, Inc. The editors present this material without editorial comment, except to point out that Colonel Mosby took occasion to protect himself and Antonia Ford from the statement in a Western newspaper that he and Antonia Ford were spies. The accepted definition of a spy being a person who enters in disguise within the enemy lines, and forfeits all rights as a prisoner of war. General J. E. B. Stuart's informal commission to Miss Ford indicates that she furnished General Stuart with military information and it would be the normal procedure for General Stuart to pass it on to Mosby who was a member of his command but operating independently.

Some of Mosby's men were from Fairfax Court House, and frequently visited home even during its occupation by Union troops. It is natural to assume that they learned the disposition of troops in the town and the points of command. It is also natural to assume that they informed their commander of what they learned.





JOHN S. MOSBY



ANTONIA FORD WILLARD  
(Published by permission of Hannah Keith Howze.)

"Aug. 20th 1900

"Mr. Thomas Keith

"Dear Tom:

"A lady friend of mine sent me a Spokane paper from wh: the enclosed clipping was cut; The only truth in it is that such a person as Antonia Ford lived at Fairfax C.H. I knew her in the winter of 1861-62 when I was a private in the First Va Cavalry & picketed in Fairfax: I never saw her afterward, nor had any communication with her, direct or indirect, until I called on her in Washington after the war. There is not a particle of truth in the statement that she ever acted as a spy—or that I ever did. I never was out of uniform or in disguise a minute during the war. In Mosby's Rangers (by Williamson) is a picture of me in the uniform I wore the night I captured Staughton. It had then been more than a year since I had seen Antonia Ford, & I did not know where she was—there is an account of Staughton's capture written by me in wh. I refer to Antonia Ford's being arrested on the charge of aiding me—of her being put in prison—& getting her revenge by marrying the provost-Marshal—Result—Joe-Willard—She was innocent as Abraham Lincoln—Now don't you see the obligation that Joe Willard is under to me? If it hadn't been for me there never wd have been a Joe Willard. I made him. Don't you think he ought to pay me an annuity? Ask him—

"I rec'd card of invitation to your wedding and was sorry that I could not be there—My kind regards to Mrs. Keith—I suppose you have stopped the Occoquan road.

Yours truly,

Jno. S. Mosby.

Clipping From Spokane (Washington) Newspaper Enclosed  
By John S. Mosby in a Letter Written to Thomas Keith,  
Fairfax, Virginia, August 20, 1900

(Published by Permission of Hannah Keith Howze)

## WOMEN SPIES.

"The reported capture of a young Dutch girl named Miss Bester, who was leaving Ladysmith on horseback for the supposed purpose of giving information to the Boers, reminds me that women have played a notable part as spies in war time, especially during the American civil war, says the Philadelphia Ledger. For example one of the most devoted of the rebels during the American war was a Miss Ford, who lived at Fairfax Court House, which was used as the headquarters for the staff officers of the Union army. Among these men Miss Ford was quite a belle, and very popular, as she was at all intents and purposes an adherent of the north. Believing her to be such, the officers often dropped items of information about their army, but all this information Miss Ford received in an apparently very careless and no-interest-to-me-I-assure-you manner, which quite deceived the men. All the same, the little rebel managed to obtain all the news she desired from the nonsuspecting officers, and this she conveyed to the confederates in a quaint manner. Frequently there used to visit her a simple, green, raw country youth, who would sit quite openly on the piazza with Miss Ford, exciting not the slightest suspicion. This "country youth," however, was no less a person than Mosby, a famous guerilla, whom the northern officers would have given worlds to catch! And Miss Ford, who was honorary aide-de-campe to Brigadier General J. E. B. Stuart, was giving him, almost within the hearing of the enemy, the whole scheme and plan of campaign of the Union forces."

### THE RECTORY, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

House where Colonel John S. Mosby captured Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton on the night of March 8, 1863.

Order from General J. E. B. Stuart commending Colonel Mosby on the capture of General Stoughton.





HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION, )  
ARMY OF N. VA., March 12, 1863. )

*General Orders, )*  
*No. — )*

Captain JOHN S. MOSBY has for a long time attracted the attention of his Generals by his boldness, skill and success, so signally displayed in his numerous forays upon the invaders of his native State.

None know his daring enterprise and dashing heroism, better than those foul invaders, though strangers themselves to such noble traits.

His late brilliant exploit—the capture of Brig. Gen. STOURMONT, U. S. A., two Captains, thirty other prisoners, together with their arms, equipments and fifty-eight horses—justifies this recognition in General Orders.

This feat, unparalleled in the war, was performed in the midst of the enemy's troops, at Fairfax C. H., without loss or injury.

The gallant band of Capt. MOSBY share the glory, as they did the danger of this enterprise, and are worthy of such a leader.

J. E. B. STUART  
*Major General Commanding*

# Antonia Ford

(From an unknown Washington (D. C.) newspaper.)

By Ben Miller.

A prophet may be without honor save in his (or in this case, her) own country, but sometimes that honor is merely delayed. Now, late by some 50 years, plans are being laid for the recognition on the hundredth anniversary of her birth of a Southern belle who must take rank with Belle Boyd as one of the Confederacy's most loyal beauties—Antonia Ford of Fairfax, Va.

Antonia, whose subtle and persuasive manner wrested many a secret from Union officers and whose resourcefulness enabled her to speed those secrets to Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, her immediate commander, to Lee, to Jackson, or wherever knowledge of them might do the most good, garnered one feather for her cap that even Belle Boyd might have envied—the capture of no less an officer than a general of the Union forces—Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton.

Although Fairfax was Antonia's home, the City of Washington was no less closely linked with her career. In her youth she made frequent visits to the Capital, where she was welcomed in the best circles. During the Civil War she was imprisoned in the Old Capitol Prison. Her romance with Maj. Joseph C. Willard, a Union officer, blossomed here. Here she was married to Maj. Willard and here she lies buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Her son, the late Joseph E. Willard, although retaining citizenship in Virginia, where he became a lieutenant governor, rose to fame in Washington as American Minister to Spain from 1913 to 1921. Her granddaughter, Belle Willard, became the wife of Kermit Roosevelt, son of the former President.

The daughter of Edward and Julia Ford, Antonia was born in Fairfax in 1838 and given the early training customary for Southern ladies of station. Her background was strongly secessionist and a brother, Charles Ford, was one of the first to enlist in Pelham's fa-

mous Horse Artillery, falling in action at Hanover Court House. As a belle in the years immediately preceding the war (she was 22 years old at the time of Sumpter) she became widely known in fashionable circles in Virginia and Washington as a wit and conversationalist. Her appearance was striking rather than beautiful in the accepted sense.

As the war progressed Fairfax became a focal point in the plans of both Union and Confederate strategists and the Ford home was the center of social activities of troops of both sides—the Southerners by preference and the Northerners through force of circumstances. Antonia and her family were the voluntary hosts of Confederate officers whenever practicable and the unwilling but cheerful entertainers of the flower of the Union Army from time to time. Antonia herself was universally popular with both. Just when she began to trade in on that popularity for the benefit of her cause is not definitely clear, but considering her temperament and her opportunities it is reasonably certain that it was at an early date. Of record is a commission issued her by Gen. Stuart, cavalry commander, on October 7, 1861—a commission which, incidentally, was to play a major part in her undoing. This document read as follows:

To All Whom It May Concern:

Know Ye

That reposing special confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and ability of Antonia J. Ford, I, James E. B. Stuart, by virtue of the power vested in me as brigadier general in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States of America, do hereby appoint and commission her my honorary aide-de-camp, to rank as such from this date.

She will be obeyed, respected and admired by all true lovers of a (illegible word) nature. Given under my hand and seal at the headquarters of the Cavalry Brigade at Camp Beverly the 7th October, A.D., 1861, and the first year of our independence.

(Signed) J. E. B. STUART.

(Signet ring seal.)

A true copy.

(Signed) L. L. LOMAX.

For a year after this the official record is blank (the nature of Antonia's work was of necessity not conducive to publicity), but in August of 1862 she appears again in a spectacular role. The historic second battle of Bull Run was impending and turmoil reigned below the Potomac. In this setting, Antonia secured information (just what is not clear) she considered important to the Confederate cause, but her usual channels of communication were clogged. However, Miss Ford was not long undecided. Enlisting the aid of her aunt, Mrs. Augustus Brower, she found two horses and together the two women set out through a rainy evening. Over muddy roads, dodging prowling troops, the pair plodded on in the storm until Gen. Stuart's camp, 20 miles away, was reached and the intelligence which they bore confided to the general's own ear.

No suspicion attached to Miss Ford concerning this trip and she resumed her operations in Fairfax. It has been claimed that Antonia from time to time transferred her activities elsewhere, but there is no evidence to bear this out, except possibly recurrent trips into Washington. Actually, it would have been hard to find a better field for espionage than Fairfax offered at that time. The hamlet swarmed with officers close to the fighting, but far enough removed from it to be easily susceptible to the charm and tact of a brilliant Southern girl. One of these, incidentally, was Maj. Willard, who was quartered at the Ford home from time to time.

Antonia's career was in crescendo during the early months of 1863 and reached a spectacular climax in March of that year. Three Union corps were stationed in Fairfax under Gen. Stoughton, commander of the 2d Vermont Brigade. This Union concentration had been ordered as a protection for Washington while Gen. Hooker gave chase to Gen. Lee through the Blue Ridge Mountains. There was little real fighting in prospect, but the hornet-like attacks of Col. John Singleton Mosby were infuriating to the Federal command. "Get Mosby!" was the by-word in the Union camp and daily expeditions were sent out without success to trap the daring independent Confederate scout. Col. Percy Wyndham, Union Cavalry commander at Fairfax, was the leader of most of these forays, and so infuriated did he become at their failure that he sent word through the lines that he, personally, would land Mosby and his

entire force. Mosby sent back a taunting rejoinder and the battle of wits continued.

March 8, 1863, dawned with desultory rainfall. All day Stoughton's headquarters was agog in preparation for a resplendent military party that night. Mosby had been quiet for a day or so and momentarily was put from the minds of the Federal leaders. Throughout the afternoon servants loaded the groaning tables with Southern delicacies. Also throughout the afternoon Col. Mosby and 29 men trudged through the rain toward Fairfax, leaving their camp at the village of Aldie, 20 miles from Fairfax. When night fell they bivouacked in the drizzle almost within earshot of the Union sentries. For six hours Mosby's men waited and then, about midnight, crawled forward again. Half a mile from the court house, where the Aldie pike converges with the road from Warrenton and Centerville, they pierced the Union lines at an unguarded spot where Union Infantry and Cavalry pickets just failed to keep liaison. This handful of men stalked into the heart of Stoughton's camp, where the fires of some thousands of Federal soldiers flickered in the gloom. Bearing away from the town, the band skirted it and then turned back toward the court house from the north—the most unexpected approach.

It was not until the court house loomed before him that Mosby revealed his plan to his men. The lone guard in the village inn silenced, he divided his company into squads, each with its specific mission. One squad raided the stables and seized the choicest of the Union horses. Another went to regimental headquarters. A certain Ames, a Union deserter, led a band to Col. Wyndham's quarters. Mosby, Sergt. Hunter and four picked men rode up to the door of the home of a Dr. Gunnell (still standing and known as the Rectory), where Stoughton himself slumbered. One of the raiders noisily pounded with his sword hilt on the portal of the red brick structure.

"Who's there?" a sleepy sentry challenged.

"Fifth New York Cavalry bearing dispatches for Gen. Stoughton," was the unhesitating rejoinder. The sentry opened the door and was overpowered. Quickly and silently others in the household



were rendered helpless until Mosby reached the bed-chamber of Gen. Stoughton himself.

At that moment Gen. Stoughton was sleeping happily. It had been a pleasant party with even the Southern belles adding to the enjoyment with their wit and gayety. His mind was at ease, except, perhaps, with the subconscious thought lurking in the back of it that Mosby was still on the loose. A resounding thwack awoke Stoughton sharply. Ranged about his bed were men in uniform.

"What?" he spluttered, not recognizing them. "Have you got Mosby?"

"No," came the gleeful reply, "Mosby's got you."

It is hard to chronicle the events that followed without a feeling of sympathy for the sad fix of Gen. Stoughton. Mosby's plans had worked with the precision of a clock. Col. Wyndham, it is true, had gone on an unexpected visit to Washington, so the deserter Ames was forced to be content with the seizure of a Capt. Barker, his former commander in the real 5th New York Cavalry. The Union general and his aides, deceived by the audacity of the raid and believing that Stuart's entire cavalry division had taken the town, that Jackson was at Centerville and any resistance futile, surrendered without a murmur. The general, 2 other officers, 38 men and 50 horses yielded without a shot being fired and did not know how easily they had been taken in until dawn broke hours later and they found themselves on the march, the prisoners of a scant 30 Confederate irregulars.

Later chroniclers have accorded to Antonia Ford the credit for much of the success of this raid, although definite proof is lacking and in light of this some are inclined to dispute that she took an active part. It is pointed out that Antonia unquestionably was in Fairfax at the time and in close contact with the affairs of the town. The nature of Mosby's stratagem precludes the possibility of coincidence, except, perhaps, that the weather made his attack easier. That he had information regarding the Union camp seems certain in view of the fact that he started his 20-mile march in the early afternoon of the day on which the big headquarters party was planned and unerringly found the one weak link in the Union picket lines. Stoughton's mother and sister and several friends of the



general had been quartered at Antonia Ford's house and this, coupled with her known previous activity and her close association with Jeb Stuart, points to her as the source of Mosby's detailed information.

At least this was the opinion of Union officers who sought some salve for their chagrin at Mosby's exploit. The Ford home was searched, her commission from Stuart reported found, and both Antonia and her father placed under arrest.

On March 17, 1863, none other than Maj. Willard arrived in Fairfax to take the fair Antonia to the Old Capitol Prison pending further investigation. The major, as has been related, already had been intrigued by the witty Southerner, and when his duty had been done and the girl lodged behind bars, he devoted himself to securing her release. Although the case against her was distinctly unfavorable, he achieved success (just how is unknown) and before many months both Antonia and her father were free and at home again.

Whether Antonia resumed her espionage activities after her imprisonment is not known, but it appears unlikely. She was kept under close surveillance by the Union forces from the date of Stoughton's disaster. Besides, the battle front became more and more remote from Fairfax as the war wore on to its end.

But her interest in Maj. Willard continued unabated, and on March 10, 1864, they were married in Washington. Seven years later Antonia died and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Several children were born to the couple, but only the one survived childhood.

Many anecdotes of Civil War days are told regarding Antonia Ford's activities, but two stand out as being the most interesting and authentic. It is narrated that early in the war, during one of the perennial Union occupations of Fairfax, the homes of all known secessionists were carefully searched by Federal officers and nearly everything of value seized. The Ford home, of course, was listed among those suspected. Anticipating a search, Antonia instructed the servants to bring the more valuable family heirlooms to her in the library. There the Union troops found her reading quietly with the sweeping hoop-skirts of the times flowing to the floor about her

chair. Antonia read scornfully on while the room was thoroughly examined and the officers made ready to depart. Just as they were leaving, one of them instructed her to move. Turning piercing eyes on him she said:

"Surely not even a Yankee officer would expect a Southern lady to arise for him?"

Embarrassed, the officer withdrew and a little later Antonia rescued the family treasures from their cache beneath her chair.

Another story concerns the romance between Antonia and Maj. Willard. The latter, pressing his suit with zeal, after Antonia's release from prison, had stolen through the Confederate lines to pay her a visit. The day was cold, and when the time came for his return to Washington, Antonia's father, grateful for the major's release from prison of himself and his daughter, offered to drive Willard into the Capital. On the front seat of the buckboard sat Ford and Antonia. Crouched drearily beneath the seat and concealed by blankets, was Maj. Willard. As the vehicle went forward, Confederate troops were met from time to time to whom Mr. Ford and his daughter gave a cheery nod until the final picket was reached. This sentry was a man who felt his responsibilities and demanded that they unload that he might search the carriage. At first Mr. Ford was haughty. He was well known as a loyal Southerner, he said, and so was his daughter, and for her to get out in the cold might damage her health, already impaired by her imprisonment for the Confederate cause. Then he relaxed.

"Why, you might think," he is reported to have said, "that I had Grant or Hooker or even Abe Lincoln hidden away in here."

The soldier grinned at this sally and let them pass. Years later Willard's son hunted out the sentry, who was known to the family, and rewarded his unconscious assistance by building him a home.

Both Antonia Ford and her brother Charles are well remembered by George W. Shreve, Confederate veteran now living in Santa Cruz, Calif., who communicated with the writer on the subject a year or so ago.

"In the winter of 1861-2," Mr. Shreve wrote, "Gen. Stuart organized a company of horse artillery to operate with the cavalry. Previous to that time he had no artillery, and the Confederate

government refused or could not furnish it. So, appealing to Gov. Letcher of Virginia, the latter came to the rescue and supplied the same and commissioned the officers in the name of the State. I, a young lad, enlisted in this company among the first. John Pelham was made captain and Charlie Ford of Fairfax C. H., a V. M. I. cadet, was made sergeant. Indeed, it was by his solicitation that I enlisted. He (Ford) and I messed together and slept under the same blanket. In due course Ford was commissioned second lieutenant and further along, first lieutenant.

"We were together in all the battles until in the Summer of 1863, at Hanover Court House, he was killed as he sat on his horse close beside me, directing his section of the battery. The Yankees worsted us there. My brother, R. S. Shreve, a lieutenant in the company, brought his body out of the action on his horse, in front of his saddle, and we buried him after nightfall over a fence in a field, my brother conducting a simple service. The body was afterward interred in Richmond.

"I was with him at the second Bull Run battle and at Chantilly, after which battle we followed the enemy to and beyond Fairfax. That night I slept in a most comfortable bed in the Ford home. Miss Antonia was there but so engaged with many officers that I did not meet her personally.

"My sister, Barbara Shreve, was active in the same line as Antonia. She communicated with Col. Mosby constantly, procured information and actually entered Washington and brought out articles for Mosby. She also sent through the lines recruits for the Southern army and so was in much danger, but was never arrested. Our home was on the railroad line  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Vienna and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles west of Falls Church."

## Historic Potomac Canals

Today as work goes forward on the George Washington Memorial Highway which will eventually connect Mount Vernon, the District of Columbia and Great Falls, we cannot help but think of the many schemes which were fostered in the 18th Century to make the Potomac River navigable. Long before the Revolutionary War turnpikes were being built throughout the country, but these roads were always difficult to travel during the winter season and it was almost impossible to carry a cargo of any weight or bulk over them. There was constantly in the minds of the men of the 18th Century the need to connect the Potomac River with the Ohio and provide a waterway to the South and West. The Potomac, though it was navigable in the south, continued to hamper this project further north because of the Great Falls, and it was as early as 1750 that interest was aroused in the possibility of building a canal around the Falls. By 1754, young George Washington began to contemplate a project by which the Potomac River could be used as a waterway from tidewater to a point west of Cumberland, Maryland, and there connect, by transmountain roads, with streams leading to the Ohio River. His efforts to organize a company for this purpose were interrupted by the Revolutionary War and it was not until 1784, thirty years later, that he was able to secure the passage of acts in the Maryland and Virginia Legislatures achieving one of his lifelong purposes. Stock was then sold under the name of the Potomac Company. The company then elected Washington as the first President and James Rumsey became the first engineer.

By August, 1785, fifty men were engaged in this project. In some places loose rocks and boulders were removed from the channel and in others narrow passageways were blasted through solid rock. A series of five canals were to be built around the worst rapids along the river.

During the years 1785-86 General Washington records in his diary that he visited the Falls and supervised the work on the canal. By 1802 the Potomac Company river and canal naviga-

tion system was practically complete. Five canals had been built. At Great Falls, on the Virginia shore, a canal having five locks, had been constructed. Today the remains of these canals can be seen. In 1807 the company had 65 boats in operation and \$15,000 was collected in tolls. While more than \$500,000 was expended on this project, it was never successful. Cargoes were delayed because it was often impossible for the boats to get through. Quite often both boat and cargo were seriously damaged by the perilous journey down the river and in 1821 a joint committee of the Maryland and Virginia Legislatures revoked the charter.

General Washington's faith in the Potomac Company was always great, as is witnessed by the following provision in his will: "Item, I Give and bequeath in perpetuity the 50 shares which I have in the Potomac Company under the aforesaid acts of the Legislature of Virginia towards the endowment of a university to be established within the limit of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it, and until said seminary is established, and the funds arising in these shares shall be required for its support, my further will and desire is that the profit accruing therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made be laid out in purchasing stock in the Bank of Columbia or some other bank at the discretion of my executors."

At the time of the failure the Great Falls of the Potomac had fascinated explorers and businessmen for almost two centuries. Baron Von Graffenried charted the Potomac River somewhere around 1657, and fell in love with the Falls. General Lighthorse Harry Lee was among those fascinated by the beauty of the Falls and went so far as to lay off the town of Mateldaville and charter it in the Legislature of Virginia.

This project was 100 years ahead of its time and consequently did not materialize. By 1820 hopes were again soaring and enthusiasm was great in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, and now a canal was visioned some 360 miles in length which would connect tidewater Potomac with the Ohio River at Pittsburgh. The two cities of the District of Columbia, George-



town and Washington, felt that they could enhance their commercial position by such a canal. Local and statewide conventions were called in Maryland and the project was enthusiastically received throughout the state. The route of the canal, its dimensions and cost were carefully studied and in June, 1828, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company was organized with a capital stock of \$3,000,000. The Potomac Company turned over its right of ways to the new company. On July 4, 1828, President John Quincy Adams turned the first spadeful of earth near Little Falls, and the project was officially underway.

In less than a year hundreds of workmen were digging the canals and stonemasons were setting stone for the locks and lock houses.

Because of the tremendous demand for skilled workmen on the many canals that were being built throughout the East, the Chesapeake & Ohio Company ran into labor difficulties and had to import men under terms of indenture. By 1830 more than a thousand English and Irish laborers had been added to the crews.

Meager food, too much whiskey and the unheard of wage of \$10.00 per month caused general disorder, and the indentured workmen were continually running away. A cholera epidemic in the 1830's depleted the forces and caused an almost total shut-down of labor. By 1831 the canal had been completed from Seneca to Rock Creek at Georgetown. In 1833 the canal was opened above Seneca. The company's funds were by this time depleted and for a seventeen year period the State of Maryland was responding to the plea for more money and invested more than \$6,000,000. The line had been extended seven miles west of Hancock, Maryland, and there it remained until October 10, 1850, when the canal was opened to Cumberland. By this time all plans for an extension across the mountains to Pittsburgh had been put aside in the face of mounting difficulties. The canal had cost more than \$11,000,000, some \$60,000 a mile. For the next three decades the canal often had as many as 500 boats in operation carrying coal, iron ore, fish salt and other merchandise. In the late 1870's coal operators started shipping by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and due to the flood disaster of 1889 the com-



pany, because of insufficient funds to repair the locks was forced into bankruptcy. It continued in the hands of trustees until 1924. During its heyday, there were many families who spent their entire lives on the canal, the boatsmen's families living on their barges and even keeping livestock and poultry on them.

Today, with the George Washington Memorial Highway nearing completion, scenic beauty that is unrivaled in this part of the country will be opened to the inhabitants of Washington and the Metropolitan area. Spots which have rarely been seen by man and which are very nearly as they were at the time the land was explored by General Washington, will be accessible.

Story of the  
**Battle of Fairfax Court House**

As Retold by  
**John W. McDonald, Col., U.S. Cav., Rtd.**

In the early part of June, 1861, the Battle of Fairfax Courthouse loomed as large on the horizon of the Unionists as it did in the minds of the Confederates.

The New York Tribune, Sunday edition, June 2nd, for example, blazoned the following headlines:

THE WAR FOR THE UNION  
FIGHT AT FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE  
CAVALRY CHARGE THROUGH TOWN  
DASHING AND BRILLIANT AFFAIR

while the Richmond Examiner at the same time told an equally eloquent though somewhat divergent story.

The Battle of Fairfax was indeed a link in the chain of events which started with the bombardment of Ft. Sumpter, April, 1861. The portentous Battle of Manassas, July 21, was still to be fought, and the four-year death struggle between the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac was yet inexorably to follow.

Basically important to both governments was the Ordinance of Secession, adopted April 17, 1861, by the Virginia Convention, which gave the Confederacy control of Arlington and of Alexandria and Fairfax Counties. Lt. Col. A. S. Taylor, Virginia Volunteers, was placed in command of the troops at or near Alexandria. These consisted, on May 5, of two companies of raw Irish recruits, with Captains Ball's and Powell's companies of Cavalry, a total of 411 Infantry and 70 Cavalry. All were sadly deficient in arms and ammunition.

Lt. Col. Taylor's command comprised part of the "Potomac De-

partment," also called "The Alexandria Line," or the "Department of Alexandria," with Brig. Gen. Philip St. George Cocke in command of the department.

Receiving information that the U. S. troops would occupy Alexandria on May 6 or 7, Lt. Col. Taylor evacuated the city May 5, withdrawing along the Orange and Alexandria railroad to Springfield Station. On May 7, Gen. Cocke relieved Lt. Col. Taylor, placing Col. Terrett in command, ordering Terrett to reoccupy Alexandria with as little delay as possible. But on May 21, Gen. Cocke, now demoted to colonel, was by S. O. 95 Hq. Virginia Forces in turn relieved and superseded by Brig. Gen. M. L. Bonham, C.S.A.

At 2 A.M. on the morning of May 24, 1861, U. S. troops in Washington crossed the Potomac by Chain Bridge, the Potomac Aquaduct (now the Key Bridge), Long Bridge (now the 14th St. Bridge), and by steamer, and occupied the high ground along the Leesburg Road, Columbia Turnpike, and the City of Alexandria.

Without resistance, the Confederate forces, under Col. Terrett, evacuated the city by way of Duke Street. During the withdrawal, Captain Ball's company of cavalry, with 35 men and horses, was captured.

After the city had been occupied, Col. Ellsworth, commanding the First Zouave Regiment, New York Militia, whose regiment was one of those directed to occupy Alexandria, was killed at the Marshall House. He was the sole Union casualty.

On May 31, 1861, Gen. G. T. Beauregard was assigned to command the troops on the Alexandria Line, S.O. 149 H. Virginia Forces.

Both the Union forces, based at Alexandria, and the Confederate forces at Manassas Junction, actively patrolled the opposing lines, trying to learn the dispositions and plans of the enemy. By far the most important of these patrol movements was that of Company B, 2nd U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Lt. Tompkins. On the night of May 31 at 10:30 p. m., Lt. Tompkins, with approximately 75 officers and enlisted men left Camp Union (Arlington), Virginia, and reconnoitered toward Fairfax Courthouse.

At that time, Fairfax Courthouse was the most advanced position occupied by General Beauregard's forces. It was garrisoned

by Lt. Col. R. S. Ewell, C. S. Army, with Captain Marr's Warrenton Rifles, 84 men; Captain Shack Green's Rappahannock Cavalry, and Captain Thornton's Prince William Horse. Col. Gregg's Infantry Regiment was at Centerville, and Col. Kershaw's Regiment was at Bull Run. Other Confederate forces were at Fairfax Station and Manassas Junction.

Lt. Tompkins advanced along the Little Falls Church-Fairfax Road (now Route 237) shortly before 3 a. m., surprising the Confederate Cavalry picket four miles northeast of Fairfax. He captured one prisoner. The other escaped and gave the alarm. At 3:10 a. m. Lt. Tompkins' force entered the Town of Fairfax. As he turned the corner where Highway 237 joins the Little River Turnpike, he encountered Capt. Green's Rappahannock Cavalry and Capt. Thornton's Prince William Horse. He charged each troop successively and drove them through the town. While galloping down the road in purspit, Tompkins' troop was fired upon from the Union Hotel, the Courthouse and other buildings.

At this moment, Captain Marr, valiantly trying to form his company of Warrenton Rifles, made a conspicuous target in the half light of the early dawn, and the charging troopers shot him down, killing him. He was the first Confederate officer killed during the Civil War, and his death was given wide publicity.

Lt. Col. Ewell, with the aid of Ex-governor Smith, took over the command of Marr's Warrenton Rifles, and placed them in position in the Courthouse grounds so that they commanded the Little River Turnpike. He also ordered Captains Harrison's and Wickham's companies up from Fairfax Station, and called upon Colonel Gregg for support from Centerville. When Tompkins' troop sought to return past the Courthouse, he encountered such strong resistance that, after a brief fire fight he ordered his men to take down the rail fence that flanked the road, hampering his progress, and led them across the fields for some distance, then came back into the Chain Bridge Road (Highway 123), and thence north through Flint Hill (Oakton) to Vienna and on back to camp. Two horses were shot under him, one enlisted man was killed, one officer and three of his enlisted men were wounded, and he lost three enlisted men captured.

On the Confederate side, besides Captain Marr killed, Lt. Col. Ewell and one private were wounded and five privates captured.

Needless to say, the Union and Confederate reports of this action were scarcely in agreement. Lt. Tompkins released the following report to the correspondent for the New York Tribune:

Sunday, June 2, 1861

THE WAR FOR THE UNION  
Fight at Fairfax Court House  
Cavalry Charge Through the Town  
Dashing and Brilliant Affair  
Only 45 Union Troops Engaged  
They Lose Four Men  
Fifteen Hundred Rebels Astonished  
Twenty-Seven Rebels Killed  
Seventeen Prisoners Taken

#### SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE

Washington, Sat., June 1, 1861

There was a fight at Fairfax Court House this morning. Lt. Mandel, of the 28th N. Y. Regiment, just in, gives the following statement direct from Lieutenant Tompkins:

A Det. 2nd Cav., Lts. Tompkins and Gordon in command, numbering 45 men, at daybreak this morning were scouting in the neighborhood of Fairfax Court House. They met Secession pickets four miles this side. They vainly tried to secure the pickets, but they rode off and gave the alarm in town.

The dragoons made a charge through the village and were shot at from the hotels, Court House and balconies of private houses all through the street.

A company of infantry ahead turned and fired, and another closed in behind and kept up a constant fire. After a charge forward, the dragoons charged back again, fought through and beat a reterat.

They carried away five prisoners, having captured seventeen. The rest got away during the fight. One was killed, and two wounded.

The Associated Press reported the Union losses as four, Confederates twenty-seven. In a subsequent dispatch Lt. Tompkins added:

The Court House street turns at right angles to the road. As our men rode round the corner, a squadron of cavalry was drawn up in line across the street. A charge was sounded and the line was broken, our men sweeping on. A company of infantry next appeared, drawn up on a cross street. It was charged and broken.

The dragoons turned and made a third charge, when they found a company of mounted riflemen guarding the other exit from the street. They charged and broke them.

A brass six pounder now appearing at the end of the street and the dragoons seeming to be surrounded they broke down the bars of a fence and galloped across the fields until they struck a road which took them 22 miles to Vienna. Thence they road home.

During the whole time of their presence in the village, there was constant firing from windows and doors. Doors would open time enough for the discharge of a musket and then close. The dragoons fired many shots into houses. Between twenty and thirty of the enemy were killed. Two horses were shot under Lt. Tompkins. A third, his own, was shot in the neck and fell on him, bruising him slightly.

One dragoon was shot by the side of the lieutenant, but there was no opportunity to get him off. "But," said Tompkins, "I think even they will give him Christian burial." Three men are missing, but one is known to have fallen from his horse, the girth breaking. The messenger also saw the trumpeter, a fiery boy of fifteen, who saw two fall dead under his own hand, and said heartily: "I know I killed more!"

Lt. Tompkins, "Young and fine looking with an intelligent face,



a West Pointer, "considered himself well out of a scrape without being cut to pieces." "He reports the enemy well armed and equipped and knowing how to fire."

But Tompkins, like General MacArthur who was rebuked by President Truman for taking similar liberties, drew the censure of General McDowell for this method of reporting the fight directly himself. General McDowell sent this message to the cavalry brigade commander:

"It is perceived that Lt. Tompkins' first report of this case has been given to the public through the columns of the N. Y. Tribune. I am directed to ask you to give instructions that this may not become a practice. Official reports and papers of this nature are not to be considered within the official control of those who make them, but of those to whom they are made."

On the other hand, the Richmond Examiner, Monday, June 3, carried the following account of the same engagement:

**BATTLE AT FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE  
GLORIOUS REPULSE OF THE UNITED STATES DRAGOONS  
Sad Death of the Brave Captain Marr**

Warrenton, June 1, 1861.

Your correspondent is now enabled to give you a strictly correct account of the late action at Fairfax Court House of which you have doubtless heard between Company B, United States Dragoons, 81 men, and Capt. Marr's Warrenton Rifles, 84 men. A few days since this latter corps, armed with a very ordinary rifle, without bayonets; were ordered to march to Fairfax Court House. At that place they found Capt. John Shack Green's Rappahannock Cavalry and Capt. Tornton's Prince William Horse. The Rappahannock troop was armed only with the old sword, without pistols, while the Prince William troop had swords and pistols, the latter of the most approved kind.

This morning the enemy captured our rifle picket and at ten minutes past three came into town. Rumor has it that the cavalry retreated in haste, as they had no carbines to resist the enemy who numbered nearly 100, and, besides pistols, were likewise armed with Sharpe's rifles. I do not believe that the cavalry did run. Right into the village the party dashed, where the rifles were drawn up to receive them in open order of battle. When within less than 80 yards, the noble-hearted Marr gave orders for the front rank to fire, and thirty seven rifles fired as if from one gun, emptying six or seven saddles. The Dragoons, accustomed to Indian fighting, at once picked up their dead and wounded comrades and retreated a L'Indian. A second charge was made with no better success, and then a third, when the United States troops fled. They carried off all their dead and wounded, but my informant told us that an old gentleman who was on his way to the Court House from Falls Church met the enemy. He reported 9 prisoners captured, 10 to 21 killed, more wounded. The South Carolinians 2100 strong have advanced to the Court House, together with Kemper's Flying Artillery, while strong supports have advanced from Manassas Junction.

The following eulogy to Capt. Marr was included in the article:

In the death of this young and talented officer, the state has been deprived of one of the brightest of her military ornaments, and the country of one of the purest and best of men. Captain Marr was graduated in Lexington in 1847 or 48, with the highest honors. He was then elected an assistant professor of that institution and discharged for some time his duty with signal ability.

In 1859 during John Brown's Raid, he organized the Warrenton Rifles and commanded them until his death.

And finally, to the above, we wish to add an excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Robert E. Lee, at Chantilly 19th June 1861 to

her daughter, Mildred, in which Mrs. Lee eloquently summarizes the current Confederate accounts of the battle:

"In that little affair at the C House, 45 Rifles on foot & Poorly armed wakened up out of their sleep with no leader he captain Marr having been shot before the action commenced their Lieuts both absent, Col Ewell without his coat rushing out & their not even knowing who he was, until told by a gentleman present when they said "Sir we obey you" routed & put to flight with considerable loss a body of the 2d Cavalry consisting of 75 men finely armed & equipped, took 3 prisoners, 3 horses & a great number of arms which were very acceptable to our poor troops The Col very slightly wounded in the shoulder which would not have occurred had he been protected by his coat & one man wounded who is now recovering—I had this account from an eye witness. They came from the Fall's church & on their way back surrounded 5 of the Prince Williams Cavalry who in the darkness thought they were friends & took them to Washington Pretending they were taken in the battle you ought to read the account in "the Star" which is entirely false."

# An Account of the Death of Captain Marr

October 23, 1950

Fairfax, Virginia

This is from a letter written by my grandmother, Mrs. Thos. Moore (Hannah Morris) to her mother, Mrs. Jacob Walton Morris in Oswego County, New York. "Our Jack" was Jack Rowe, a fine, trusted slave who lived with our family many years after the war.

Mary L. McCandlish

June 6, 1861

"It has been a long time since I left this sheet, dear Mother, and so much has transpired since that I hardly know where to begin.

"Wednesday the 29th after a great many false alarms, it was decided that the records should be sent to Warrenton and the question was whether Mr. Moss or Mr. Moore should take them. As they were the only persons that could, it was decided that Mr. Moore should go and we parted with him with fear and trembling for his safety and our own.

"Thursday, the next day, one hundred of the Warrenton Riflemen came to the village and quartered in the Methodist Church directly by our house. Then we felt perfectly safe (that is Georgie, the children, and myself), then we had about 180 soldiers in the place, only the Warrenton Rifles who were well armed.

"Friday night we went to bed feeling safe and expecting my dear husband home the next day. We slept nicely (I am getting so nervous as I write it brings the whole scene to my memory so plainly) until ½ past 2 o'clock. I heard a noise at the church and jumped out and saw people running in all directions and the Riflemen standing in file armed in front of the church, and people calling out "the enemy are upon us." You can never imagine my feelings. God only knows how alarmed we were. We dressed as soon as possible. I took Mr. Moore's gun and ran across the yard

and handed it to a soldier (wonder since that I was not shot) then went to the kitchen, called Jack and the other servants, got them all in the house and by that time the enemy had dashed into the village after taking one of our Pickets, another escaped, came to the village and brought the news about ten minutes before they were upon us—then the firing began.

"I thought the balls might enter the house, therefore I ordered servants and all, with the lights to the basement, and there we heard the guns pop, pop and I with poor little Walton in my arms, nothing but his nightgown on. I went up into the parlor and saw horses passing without riders and citizens (for they fired on those too altho they had no arms) running in all directions.

"After a time, nearly daylight they left with the worst of it—then we went out in the yard and the Riflemen (who had done bravely) came to the fence and showed us a number of revolvers they had taken and spurs found and an elegant horse, but they were distressed about their Capt. Marr, all were safe and sound but he, they searched for him and our Jack found him over in Mr. Stevenson's field (where he had headed his company), lying upon his face, shot through the heart. Poor fellows, how badly they felt, and indeed we all did. I could have cried. They sent directly to the Station and other places and in an hour we had about five hundred brave men in the village and well armed expecting a return of the Federal troops. In the meantime we had coffee and milk handed to the men who had fought. They did not return as you have seen by the papers no doubt but we had false alarms all day that were really distressing."

# Letter Concerning Battle of Fairfax

(June 1, 1861)

From Mary Custis Lee (Mrs. Robert E. Lee)  
To Her Daughter, Mildred Lee, June 19 [1861]

From the Files of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.

Chantilly 19th June

My dear child

I only yesterday received your letter directed to Fairfax Court H—acknowledging the receipt of the shoe strings &, no doubt you have written often Twice but we get no letters now from any body. All the mails are deranged every where, I wrote to your Cousin Esther Lewis some time ago if there should be any alarm to send for you to come to Audley but if you prefers now I think it would be better you can make your plans to meet me at Kinlock, I am going there on Monday & shall remain at least some weeks, your sister is with me Agnes having gone to the White House, we came up here in the carriage & shall go from hence in the same way to Kinlock I suppose you can get from Winchester easily to Kinlock by railroad. However when I go there I will write to you & tell you all about it



As long as you can attend to yur studies you had best remain where you are. I shall have much to tell you when I see you that it is too painful to write about—we look to God alone for help in the troubles which environ us, & he seems so far to have protected us signally—In that little affair at the C House, 45 Rifles on foot & Poorly armed wakened up out of their sleep with no leader he captain Marr having been shot before the action commenced their Lieuts both absent, Col Ewell rushing out without his coat & their not even knowing who he was, until told by a gentleman present when they said "Sir we obey you" routed & put to flight with considerable loss a body of the 2d Cavalry consisting of 75 men finely armed & equipped, took 3 prisoners, 3 horses & a great number of arms which were very acceptable to our poor troops The Col very slightly wounded in the shoulder which would not have occurred had he been protected by his coat & one man wounded who is now recovering—I had this account from an eye witness. They came from the Fall's church & on their way back surrounded 5 of the Prince Williams Cavalry who in the darkness thought they were friends, & took them to Washington

Pretending they were taken in the battle  
you ought to read the account in "the Star"  
which is entirely false—"12th Kinlock I got  
here safely my dear Milly. I think under  
the circumstances it may be well for  
you to pack & arrange all your things to come  
here the first Good opportunity that offers,  
especially if there is any alarm or danger  
of the rail road being obstructed, You need  
not hurry but just get all ready, pack your  
books in a box & leave them there with your  
name upon them except some few that  
you may require & some music to practice  
as they have a piano here—I shall in all  
probability remain here till after the 4  
th of July & see how things are going to be  
& can go from this in the Rail Road to join the  
rest of my family probably somewhere  
about Charlottesville tho' I do not yet know  
You must give much love to Selina & all Tell  
them all at Chantilly I send much love to them  
They feel quite alarmed there, about the  
enemy being so near & for fear Turberville  
who is so well known as a secessionist  
should be taken up but I trust

the enemy will not be allowed to advance further than the Court House  
I have no news more than what you see in the papers  
I enclose you \$5.00 to pay your passage down here I do not know what it is, but if you can get any change do bring it to us as it seems impossible to get any here—Ask Mr. Powell to make up his bill & you bring it with you here but tell him I do not know if I can pay him except by a draft on Alexa ask him if that will answer because I can send that by mail  
I shall hardly be able to go to Winchester now, you must give much love to Mrs Barnes & all friends—I feel most anxious to hear from all, & now the mails are so uncertain, if you have any small debts you must pay them. & if you can write me when will be here as we can send to the Plains to meet you The direction is to me Care of Edward C Turner Esqr, Plains Post-Office Fauquier County Virginia  
It is so near that even should no one be there to meet you, you

could walk to the House but  
if we know you are coming as  
you come in the Rail Road you can  
bring all Your things, winter as well  
as summer clothes——as we know  
not what may happen it is  
best to be prepared for any emer  
gency. I shall be anxious too  
to know if you get the money  
safe——I send instead of \$5..00, 10..00  
If you can get me change for some  
of 100.. notes of Virginia if you can as  
the Alexandria notes are now good  
for nothing. If you cannot get change  
you can leave it with Mr Powell in  
part payment of what you owe or bring  
it back to me. Do not lose it I have  
not time to write more Janey sends  
you much love, & is very anxious to see  
you now when you get this ask Mr. P  
to look out for a good opportunity & have  
all your things ready—I have Cally  
Irene to wash for us. Love to all  
Yrs most affectionately

M C Lee

## Dumfries

Dumfries, a lost port of Northern Virginia, is scarcely to be noticed today as one travels through it. Located between Alexandria and Fredericksburg, the stranger, who knows nothing of the history of this shabby and melancholy village finds it hard to visualize a gay and thriving port where ships from all over the world met and unloaded luxuries for the settlers and reloaded with that cargo of gold—tobacco.

Today even the straggling and mundane population seem to forget that their village had one of the first theaters in the colonies, visited by the greatest traveling troops. General Washington was a frequent visitor, recording in his diary for January 2, 1771, that he had attended the theater.

Imports in the year 1794 amounted to \$85,635.00. Great warehouses that stood along the edge of Quantico Creek had unheard-of hoards of tobacco to export and it was to this port that unknown luxuries were brought in exchange.

Chopawamic Swamp today has even crept into the graveyards and obliterated the traces of those who helped to make the past famous. Today the quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore can be found in any old burying ground, their tablets falling askew, their trailing draperies of morning glories and perriwinkle, the sturdy old trees and dark clustering ivy. Here, in spite of neglect, in spite of the lack of formal gardening, will be found a mellow grace and ample food for thought.

It was nearby that Belvoir, the home of William Fairfax, was built—probably the most palatial mansion in the then Stafford County. We can see the planters of that day carrying their great hogsheads of tobacco and any other produce which their plantations might have produced to Dumfries, which was a thriving port long before Alexandria or Washington were even thought of. The gentlemen, for it was primarily a gentlemen's town, enjoying several days of carefree recreation. At one time there were as many as twelve inns, numerous ordinaries, a hospital and unlimited shops in the village. It was on May 16, 1777, that a military

hospital camp was set up there for the inoculation of soldiers before they were regularly enrolled in the Continental Army. Today there are few vestiges of this lost glory. During the War Between the States the few remaining brick buildings were torn down; even the foundations were uprooted because the Union soldiers found it necessary to have brick for the temporary chimneys of their quarters.

Richard Dunlop, merchant, carried on by far the most noteworthy business. We find from old ledgers that the gentry from 'round about ordered such things as pressed sugar, spices, rum, oranges, fine handkerchiefs and the finest silks from China. Today as we look at the village, one of the few things that reminds us of its former days is the house built in 1784 by the Henderson family. It has weathered the ravages of time and wars and many are the stories it could tell. Foremost among these is the one about the bride whom Mr. Henderson later took to his house. General Washington spoke of Miss Moore as being noted for two things. "She is remarkable for a very frizzled head and good singing, the latter of which I shall presume it was that captivated our merchant."

Up the river a few miles is another house equally famous, Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason. It was he who had built one of the most perfect houses in this part of the country and it was only natural that people like Mr. Henderson, the prosperous merchant, should turn to him for advice in building his own house. Alexander Henderson, gave the following advice: "I would advise you to have your cellars quite up to the water table, laid with sound bricks. It is usual with workmen to stow away their bad bricks in the cellars, not because they will last better there than in other parts of the building but because they are more out of sight."

Dumfries, no more the port and business center of the gentry of Prince William County, no more a thriving town, but its wharves, its great warehouses, the theater and the churches have passed away with the shifting sands and today there is a mere trickle of swampy water where once it stood.



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 Miss Elizabeth Kirkley  
 Mrs. H. E. Rainals Kondrup  
 Mrs. John Koons  
 S. Gail Landon, Jr.  
 Mrs. S. Gail Landon, Jr.  
 Mrs. Fairfax Stuart Landstreet  
 Mrs. Robert Landreth  
 David Lawrence  
 Mrs. David Lawrence

W. Lewis Leigh  
 Mrs. W. Lewis Leigh  
 Mrs. Tillman Leigh  
 Hazel Kirk Levens  
 Helen M. Lindsay  
 Mrs. S. William Livingston  
 Horace L. Lohnes  
 Mrs. Horace L. Lohnes  
 Hillis Lory  
 Mrs. Hillis Lory  
 R. M. Loughborough  
 Col. James Monroe Love  
 G. E. Luebben  
 Edwin Lynch  
 Mrs. F. S. McCandlish  
 Mrs. Atherton McCondray  
 L. McCormick-Goodhart  
 Robert McDaniel  
 Mrs. Robert McDaniel  
 Col. John W. McDonald  
 Henry T. McKnight  
 Henry C. Mackall  
 John C. Mackall  
 Mrs. John Mackall  
 Walter Macomber  
 Mrs. Walter Macomber  
 Claude Mahoney  
 Mrs. Claude Mahoney  
 Roland S. Marshall  
 Mrs. Joseph Mathy  
 Miss Allegra Maynard  
 Keith Merrill  
 Mrs. Keith Merrill  
 Miss Lillian W. Millan  
 Miss Helene Mitchell  
 General R. Latane Montague  
 Edmund Montgomery  
 Mrs. Edmund Montgomery  
 H. F. Montgomery  
 Mrs. H. F. Montgomery  
 Miss Margaret Moore  
 William Cooper Moore  
 Weaver Myers  
 Mrs. Weaver Myers  
 Mrs. Henning Nelms

Daniel H. Neviaser  
 Mrs. Daniel H. Neviaser  
 Mrs. F. E. Nolting, Jr.  
 Frederick Northrup  
 Mrs. Frederick Northrup  
 Col. Edward Offley  
 Mrs. Walter Tansill Oliver  
 Walter T. Oliver, Jr.  
 Mrs. Walter T. Oliver, Jr.  
 Albert M. Orme  
 Frederick C. Othman  
 M. Thatcher Paris, Feb. 1950-  
 Oct. 1951  
 Mrs. M. Thatcher Paris, Feb.  
 1950-Oct. 1951  
 Mrs. Edmund Parry  
 Charles Pickett  
 Mrs. Charles Pickett  
 Charles Pickett, 4th  
 Mrs. Charles Pozer  
 Miss Carol Preston  
 Col. E. L. Rasmussen  
 Mr. J. H. Reiter  
 Mrs. J. H. Reiter  
 F. D. Richardson  
 Mrs. F. D. Richardson  
 Mrs. Abner C. Ritchie  
 Randolph D. Rouse  
 Mrs. Randolph D. Rouse  
 Miss Margaret Scattergood  
 Herbert Scoville  
 Richard E. Shands  
 Mrs. Richard E. Shands  
 Mrs. Pearl W. Sharpe  
 Lester C. Simpson

Arthur W. Sinclair  
 Mrs. Arthur W. Sinclair  
 J. W. Rixey Smith  
 Miss Kathleen R. Smith  
 Lisle A. Smith  
 Mrs. Lisle Smith  
 Richard McAlister Smith  
 Mrs. Richard McAlister Smith  
 Mrs. Arthur A. Snyder  
 Mrs. T. A. Solberg  
 James William Somerville  
 Miss Anna May Staumbaugh  
 Miss Josephine Staumbaugh  
 Miss Elizabeth Tabb Stewart  
 Constance B. P. Stuntz  
 Mayo S. Stuntz  
 Mrs. Mayo S. Stuntz  
 Roy A. Swayze  
 John E. Taylor  
 Mrs. L. K. Thompson  
 Dr. Richard H. Todd  
 R. M. Townsend  
 Mrs. R. M. Townsend  
 Mrs. G. R. Wait  
 Mrs. Robert Walker  
 Charles C. Wall  
 Mrs. Joseph Weyl  
 Jean S. White  
 Mrs. Joseph Willard  
 Minna C. Wilson  
 Mrs. Richard Wilson  
 Mrs. David L. Wing  
 Hon. Robert W. Woolley  
 Lehman H. Young

# Minutes of the Meetings

## Of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Va. Inc.

On February 18, 1950, at 1:30 p. m. the first organizational meeting of the Fairfax Historical Society was held at Woodlawn, Fairfax County, Virginia. The luncheon given by Mr. and Mrs. Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. Paris and Mr. Rixey Smith was delightful.

Twenty-three people who had expressed an interest in such an organization were invited. They were as follows: Mrs. Charles Pozer, Mrs. Charles Howze, Mr. Rixey Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. Worth Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. M. Thatcher Paris, Mrs. Fairfax Shield McCandlish, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson, Col. Henry W. T. Eglin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Howrey, Mr. and Mrs. John Mackall, Mrs. Edmond Parry, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graham, Mrs. Smith Bowman.

When Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Montgomery expressed such an interest in the organization, their names were added to the list of guests.

Mr. Smith, as temporary chairman, opened the meeting with a short talk on Fairfax County and its historic sites.

Mr. Paris brought the greetings of the Virginia Historical Society and those of Mr. Clayton Torrence, the Executive Secretary of that society. He then presented the aims of the Historical Society and attempted to tell the group of some of the obligations which such a society would undertake.

Mrs. Morris, the chairman of the "Furnishings Committee" of Woodlawn then spoke to the group of the appropriateness of such a meeting taking place on the day when the first Lewis furniture was being returned to Woodlawn.

A temporary slate of officers was nominated by Mr. Charles Pickett and was seconded by Mrs. McCandlish. They were unanimously elected and are as follows: Mr. Rixey Smith, president; Mr. Thatcher Paris, secretary; Mrs. Edmond Parry, treasurer. Mr. Smith ap-

pointed a constitution committee as follows: Mr. Charles Pickett, chairman; Mrs. F. S. McCandlish, Mr. Worth Bailey.

Mr. Pickett then offered to act as lawyer for the society and take steps toward securing a charter.

After much discussion as to whether the society should limit the charter members to those invited to the original organizational meeting, it was decided that a committee consisting of Mrs. Charles Howze, Mrs. Edmond Howery, Mrs. Smith Bowman and Mrs. Edmond Parry be appointed. This committee was instructed to accept names during a two-week period. Each person submitting a reasonable member.

The group then agreed that the charter members should be limited to one hundred people. After these names had been selected the secretary would write each a letter inviting him to become a charter member of the Fairfax Historical Society. When 100 members had accepted, a meeting would be held at which a general election of officers would take place and then all interested persons would be asked to become members. At this meeting the permanent committees would also be appointed.

Mrs. Edmund Parry then asked the organizational group to a second meeting at her home on February 28, 1950. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
THATCHER PARIS, Secretary.

The second meeting of the organizers of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, was held at the home of Mrs. Edmund Parry on February 28, 1950, at 8 p. m. Those present were Mr. Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. Paris, Mrs. Howze, Col. Eglin, Mr. Smith, Mrs. McCandlish, Mrs. Parry, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Montgomery.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Smith. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

Mr. Pickett gave a report of the constitutional committee. This report embodied the aims of the society and the different types of membership which should be incorporated in the charter. The acts of Virginia for 1874 were read by Mr. Pickett.

Col. Eglin made a motion that the name of the Society should be "The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia." This motion was seconded by Mrs. McCandlish and unanimously passed by those present.

A report of the charter membership committee was given by Mrs. Parry and a list was submitted. The secretary was then instructed to write a letter to each person inviting him to become a charter member.

A schedule of dues was adopted giving two classes: \$5.00 per person annual membership and \$25 per person sustaining membership. A motion to this effect was made by Mrs. McCandlish and seconded by Mrs. Paris.

A motion was made by Mr. Edmond Montgomery that "all prospective members should be passed by a membership committee." This motion was accepted by Mrs. McCandlish.

After photographs were taken by the Washington Post and the Falls Church Echo the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

THATCHER PARIS, Secretary.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, was held on Wednesday, June 7, 1950, at 8 p. m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pickett.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Thatcher Paris in the absence of Mr. Rixey Smith. Those present were: Mr. Charles On the 18th of July, 1763, Mr. Mason, in reply to a letter from Pickett, Col. Eglin, Judge Paul Brown, Mr. John Barbour, Mrs. McCandlish, Mrs. Pozer, Mr. Thatcher Paris, Mrs. Edmund Parry, Mrs. Robert Graham.

A report was given by Mr. Charles Pickett on the charter and its acceptance by the State Corporation Commission.

The board amended the charter by a by-law stating that "the Board of Directors should have sole power to amend the charter."

The minutes from the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

The charter was then amended as follows: "The Board of Directors shall constitute the nominating committee." Proposed by Mr.



Pickett and seconded by Mrs. McCandlish.

The following people were then nominated by the Board of Directors to act as officers for 1950-51:

President, Col. Henry Eglin; first vice-president in charge of legal affairs, Mr. Charles Pickett; second vice-president in charge of publications, Mr. M. Thatcher Paris; secretary, Mr. James Keith; treasurer, Mrs. Edmund Parry.

A resolution was passed that all officers be appointed exofficio members of the Board of Directors.

A discussion on the year book then followed. Among the suggestions for future articles were the Fairfax Family Homes, an index of portraits in the county, an index of the early county deed books and an index of houses in the county which were built before 1800.

Col. Eglin then appointed Mrs. McCandlish and Mr. Paris a committee on the seal for the society.

Mrs. Pozer and Mrs. McCandlish were appointed curators for the society.

Mrs. McCandlish, Mrs. Pozer and Mr. Paris were appointed by Col. Eglin as an acquisitions committee to pass on items offered to the society.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. THATCHER PARIS, Secretary.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called by Col. Eglin on June 18, 1950, at 3:30 p. m.

Those present were Messrs. John Barbour, Charles Pickett, Paul Brown, Thatcher Paris, John Mackall, Henry Eglin, James Keith, Robert Graham, Mrs. Charles Pozer, Mrs. McCandlish.

The following motion was made by Mr. Charles Pickett: "That for 1950 the annual meeting be changed to June 18, 1950." This was seconded by Mrs. McCandlish.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. THATCHER PARIS, Secretary.

Minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the Society:

The first annual meeting of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Incorporated, was held at the "Jackson House," formerly belonging to John Jackson, now owned by Col. Eglin, his great, great, great grandson, at 4 p. m. on Sunday, June 18, 1950. The house in which this meeting was held is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in Fairfax County, having been built prior to 1710 by the Jackson family.

The meeting was called to order by Col. Eglin, temporary chairman, who welcomed the members of the Society.

The temporary chairman then called for a report from the nominating committee. Mr. Robert Graham, chairman, reported the following slate of officers for the coming year: Col. H. W. T. Eglin, president; Mr. Thatcher Paris, vice-president in charge of publications; Mr. Charles Pickett, vice-president in charge of legal affairs; Mr. James Keith, secretary; Mrs. Edmund Parry, treasurer.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the report of the nominating committee was approved and nominations were closed. Whereupon the above named officers were duly elected to serve for the year 1950-51.

The chairman next called for a report from Mrs. F. Shield McCandlish, chairman of the committee to select a seal. The committee recommended that the seal should be in the form of a circle formed by the name of the Society and that in the center should be a picture of the courthouse taken from an old engraving which the committee had and exhibited. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, this form of seal was adopted.

The chairman then called upon Mr. M. Thatcher Paris for a report on the actions of the incorporators.

Mr. Charles Pickett, newly elected vice-president in charge of legal affairs, read the charter of the society which was then duly approved by the members.

Mr. M. Thatcher Paris then presented a report from the Virginia Historical Society greeting the formation of the Historical Society of Fairfax County and welcoming us into the fold of such societies sponsored by the Virginia Historical Society.

Mr. Paris then introduced, as the guest speaker, Mrs. Helen Bullock, whose address on the subject "Thomas Jefferson" was re-

ceived with interest by all the members.

Whereupon the business meeting was adjourned. A buffet supper was served by Col. and Mrs. Eglin to all members present (estimated to be 79).

Respectfully submitted,  
JAMES KEITH, Secretary.

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, took place at 8:30 p. m. on September 19, 1950, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pickett. Those present were Messrs. H. W. T. Eglin, Charles Pickett, Thatcher Paris, James Keith, Robert D. Graham, Thomas P. Chapman, jr., John S. Barbour, John C. Mackall and F. D. Richardson, Mrs. F. S. McCandlish, Mrs. Charles Pozer, and Mrs. Edmund Parry. Col. Eglin opened the meeting.

Col. Eglin then asked Mr. Paris to state the reasons for the meeting:

1. Mr. Clayton Torrence, the executive secretary of the Virginia Historical Society had requested that Mr. Pickett and Mr. Paris attend the executive meeting of the Virginia Historical Society on September 21, 1950, and present to that group the charter of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc. Mr. Torrence also stated that branch societies had not proven successful and he felt that we should ask to become an affiliated society. The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., would be an independent organization but could enjoy the privileges of being affiliated with the Virginia Historical Society.

In order to become an affiliated society the Fairfax group would have to open offices, assemble a library and archive of papers, publish a year book and appoint a full-time director.

Mr. Paris then offered his services to the society as director from October 1, 1950, through December 31, 1951. This would fulfill the stipulations of the Virginia Historical Society. Fifteen hundred members would be needed to meet the expenses of the society.

A motion was made by Mr. Mackall and seconded by Mr. Chapman that Mr. Paris and Mr. Pickett go to Richmond on September 21, to present our charter to the Virginia Historical Society, find

out our exact status and report back to the Bord of Directors of this society.

It was then moved and seconded that the offer of M. T. Paris to serve as director for fifteen months be accepted at an appropriate annual salary.

It was then moved and seconded that Mrs. McCandlish, Mr. Keith and Mr. Chapman be appointed to act for the Board of Directors in approving all membership applications.

It was then moved and seconded that Dr. Gertrude R. B. Richards be asked to address the society in October and that Mr. Paris should make all necessary arrangements.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Resectfully submitted,

JAMES KEITH, Secretary.

### DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

Hours of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc.: 9 to 4:30 daily; 9 to 12:30 Saturday; closed 12:30 to 4:30 on Wednesdays to allow the Director time to inspect materials and papers which are in the hands of individuals. This time will also be used for conferences with the printer on year book and conducting business which has to be transacted away from society headquarters. Approved by the Board of Directors.

I. The duties of the Director and Executive Secretary will be as follows:

(1) To direct activities of the society, catalogue the library, and calendar the papers of the society.

Case files on individuals who are important to the history of the county in both the past and present will be assembled. These files will contain clippings, personal accounts, legends, etc. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(2) The director shall edit the year book—which shall include articles contributed by individuals, the proceedings of the society, book reviews and list of new accessions. This volume shall be ready for distribution by June 19th of each year. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(3) The director shall make recommendations to the acquisitions committee concerning materials which have been offered to the society. It is important to be discriminating in this matter, as any organization, such as a historical society, will be offered materials which are of no value historically. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(4) The director shall build up a museum of articles which will be of interest to the history of Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(5) The director shall be responsible for the correspondence of the the society and shall maintain the general files of the society. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(6) The director, after proper consultation with the President and officers of the society, shall invite speakers for the regular meetings of the society. It will be his duty to notify the members of such meetings. The Director, at the direction of the President shall notify the Board of Directors of their quarterly meetings. These meetings shall ordinarily take place on the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December. Approved by the Board of Directors.

II. (1) All bills for membership dues shall be sent out from the office of the society and a membership file be kept there. A current membership card shall be mailed to each member upon receipt of his dues. The dues of the society shall become due on January 1 of each year. Approved by the Board of Directors.

(2) The Director shall not handle any funds of the society except small amounts to be turned over to him for incidental expenses by the treasurer. All bills shall be paid monthly by the Treasurer. When dues are received they shall be turned over to the Treasurer. Approved by the Board of Directors.

NOTES—1. The society shall provide traveling expenses for the Director when it is necessary for him to attend meetings at the Virginia Historical Society and other meetings which the Board of Directors feel would be for the general good of the society. Approved by the Board of Directors.

2. The offices of the society shall be closed for the month of August when the Director shall take his vacation. It is suggested that August will be the proper month as fewer scholars will use



the library during this month than at any other time during the year. Approved by the Board of Directors.

3. The society offices will be closed on all legal holidays. Approved by the Board of Directors.

**SUGGESTIONS—1.** It is suggested that the President appoint a three-man committee from the Board of Directors, who will pass on membership. It is the goal of the society to have fifteen-hundred members by the end of December. This is necessary in order to carry out our proposed budget. In order to facilitate matters and not have to call special meetings of the Board of Directors to pass on membership, such a committee is absolutely necessary. It would not be necessary to have this committee for more than the first year. Approved by the Board of Directors.

2. It is suggested that a regular meeting of the society be planned for October 19, 1950, at 8 p. m. and that we invite Dr. Gertrude R. Richards, the noted historian, to speak at this meeting. Approved by the Board of Directors.

3. It is suggested that the Director notify each member of the society that an office has been opened. It would be of great help if each member would supply a list of as many prospective members as possible to the Director. As each new member must be proposed and seconded by a member it will be impossible to build up the membership without these lists. Approved by the Board of Directors.

4. It is suggested that the society place its name on dealers' lists in order to be notified of material, both printed and manuscript, which comes on the market.

The society should be willing to receive materials both as gift and deposit. It is preferable, when material is for deposit, that it be for a comparatively long period if possible. Approved by the Board of Directors.

On recent materials, which might affect persons now living, it will be wise to place certain restrictions; i. e., open to qualified scholars only.

There is a wealth of material on Fairfax County in existence and we should have no trouble collecting it, provided a systematic search is made for it. The society must not overlook the fact that



the events of today will be the history of tomorrow and it is our duty to preserve this material also. Approved by the Board of Directors.

Since it would seem wise for the society to run on the calendar year, I would suggest that we bill new members only \$2.50 for any time less than six months. This will encourage people to join within the next three months of this year. Approved by the Board of Directors.

A special Board of Directors' meeting was called at the home of Mr. Paris on Tuesday, September 26, 1950, to receive the report of Mr. Paris, who had attended the executive meeting of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond on September 21st.

The meeting was opened by Col. Eglin. Those present were Col. Eglin, Messrs. Graham, Paris, Pickett, Smith, Barbour, Mackall and Mrs. Charles Pozer and Mrs. Edmund Parry.

Mr. Paris reported that the Virginia Historical Society accepted our charter and that society would accept the Historical Society of Fairfax County as an affiliated society. The details of the affiliation were to be worked out with the Virginia Historical Society and submitted to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, for approval.

Plans were discussed for the Historical House Tour which has been scheduled for November 25, 1950. Mr. Paris was instructed to appoint committees and organize the project.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

M. THATCHER PARIS, Acting Secretary.

The December quarterly meeting of the Historical Society was held on December 14, 1950, at 8 p. m. in the Circuit Court Room of Fairfax Courthouse. There were forty-three members present.

The meeting was opened by Col. Eglin who welcomed the members.

Mr. Paris, the Director of the society, was then introduced by Col. Eglin.

Mr. Paris told the members of the work of the society, the educational program which had been started in the schools and the

work with the teachers in the Fairfax High School. Mr. Paris then made an appeal to the members for books and related materials on Fairfax County.

Col. Eglin then introduced Dr. Charles Wiltse, the noted authority on John C. Calhoun and States' rights. Dr. Wiltse spoke on "States' Rights" and led the spirited discussion which followed.

Col. Eglin then asked for suggestions from the floor for future meetings.

Mrs. Katharine Willis suggested a forum on Fairfax County.

Mrs. Charles Pozer then commented on the excellent work that is being done by the society.

Col. Eglin then closed the meeting with an appeal to the members for materials which would be of value to the society.

The meeting was then adjourned to the home of Mrs. F. S. McCandlish, where she entertained the members and their guests with a supper in honor of Dr. Charles Wiltse.

Respectfully submitted,

M. THATCHER PARIS, Acting Secretary.

The March quarterly meeting of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Inc., was held on March 14th at 8 p. m. in the Circuit Court Room of Fairfax Courthouse with one hundred members present. The meeting was called to order by the president, Col. Eglin, and was followed by a report from Mr. Paris, the Director. In his report, Mr. Paris spoke of the progress the society had made in assembling a library and papers which had been turned over to the society by various members. The society plans to publish a year book in June and hopes to have an index of portraits in the county included in it. Mr. Paris urged the members to send in lists which need not be portraits of residents of the county, but any persons of historical importance.

Mr. Paris asked the members to submit names of persons who may be interested in becoming members of the society. Fifteen hundred members is the desired goal. Anyone interested in work of the society is eligible. Mr. Paris feels that our society has a promising future. He mentioned that we are the first ever to be accepted by the Virginia Historical Society. Mr. Paris has been

speaking to several schools in the county on the historical background and traditions of the county. The offices of the Historical Society are open to members and their visits are requested.

Mr. Walter Macomber, a member of the society, well known for his work while architect in Williamsburg, and now resident architect at Mount Vernon was introduced to the members. Mr. Macomber gave a very interesting talk on the restoration and up-keep at Mount Vernon. Mr. Macomber stressed the difference between restoration and remodeling. Mount Vernon was acquired in 1858, and to date there are eight of the sixteen original buildings restored. Mr. Macomber said that the information for restoration is gotten from two sources—physical and documentary. George Washington's letters supply the best information. After Mr. Macomber's talk, the present superintendent of Mount Vernon, Mr. Wall, gave a delightful talk on "The Place of Mount Vernon in the Community." He spoke of George Washington as a "good neighbor" and felt that this was his real claim to fame. Not as a general, not as President, but as a good citizen he furnishes the best example to the youth of today. His desire to help his neighbors and his feeling of responsibility in this respect are keystones of his correspondence.

Before the close of the meeting a film was shown on Mount Vernon. This film was produced to help people appreciate Mount Vernon on their visits there or to show to those who cannot go.

Mrs. Fairfax Landstreet entertained the members and their friends at a reception following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES KEITH, Secretary.

A special Board of Directors' meeting was called on June 27, 1951, at 8 p. m. in the offices of the society in the Barbour Building.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Col. H. W. T. Eglin, with the following members present: H. W. T. Eglin, John C. Mackall, Robert D. Graham, M. T. Paris, Mary L. McCandlish, Katharine B. Pozer, James Keith.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The President asked Mrs. Parry, the Treasurer, to please submit

a detailed report of receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year.

Mr. Paris, the director, reported that it was his opinion that the society could not operate as a full-time going concern. The expenses far exceeded receipts. There is not enough demand for the facilities of the society. There are only 220 members, although over 1,000 have been invited to join. Apparently there is not enough interest in the county to maintain the organization as a growing concern. The material for a yearbook is available. It has been collected, but there is not enough money to pay for its printing. Mr. Paris tendered his resignation.

The President expressed the sincere appreciation of the Board of Directors to Mr. Paris for the splendid work he had performed as director and for the efficient manner in which he had set up the office and organized the society, and persuaded Mr. Paris to withdraw his resignation. Thereupon the board decided not to disband but to continue the office for another year. Mr. Paris agreed to continue as director, but not to give full time to the job, to publish the yearbook and to supervise whatever volunteer help as may be secured.

There was a nomination of officers for the coming year: President, Col. Eglin; first vice-president, Mr. Chas. Hamel; second vice-president, Capt. Walter Kareg; secretary, Mr. James Keith; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Cox; executive director, Mr. M. T. Pais.

Col. Eglin offered facilities of Jackson House for the annual meeting to be held on July 1, 1951, at 4 p. m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES KEITH.

The annual meeting of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia, Incorporated, was held on Sunday, July 1, 1951, at Jackson House, owned by Col. H. W. T. Eglin, with one hundred members present. A short business meeting was held by Col. Eglin with election of the new officers as nominated by the Board of Directors at their last meeting.

Mr. Paris spoke briefly on the progress made in the last year and assured the members that they could expect full cooperation from



him as executive director, though he could not spend full time in the offices.

It was suggested that every member be sent a list of the complete membership of the society. Again the members were urged to submit names for prospective membership.

After the business meeting was adjourned a delightful buffet was enjoyed by the members and guests.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES KEITH.

**REF 975.529 H 1951 v.1**  
**Historical society of**  
**Fairfax County, Virginia**  
**Yearbook**

**For Reference**

**Not to be taken**

**from this library**